

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 NSC-05
DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 PA-01 /077 W
-----301327Z 031558 /54

R 292315Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3686
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3659

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: SREF, HA (LIONEL DERENONCOURT)
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF LOCAL CWS EMPLOYEE

REF: (A) STATE 312758, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 3658

1. DETAILS OF DERENONCOURT'S RELEASE AND EXILE REPORTED
REF B. AS STATED THEREIN, DERENONCOURT AND SEVEN OTHER
POLITICAL PRISONERS CONSIDERED BY GOH TO BE DANGEROUS
SUBVERSIVES WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON, TAKEN TO THE
AIRPORT, GIVEN A ONE-WAY TICKET TO FRANCE, GIVEN \$300,
AND EXILED. RELEASE OF DERENONCOURT AND OTHERS WHO
ARE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS IS A NEW DEPARTURE IN HAITIAN
INTERNAL SECURITY PRACTICES AND REPRESENTS CONTINUED
AND INCREASING ATTENTION TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS.

2. CWS REPRESENTATIVE IN HAITI DID NOT INITIALLY DISCUSS
DERENONCOURT'S INCARCERATION WITH EMBASSY BECAUSE HE
AND DERENONCOURT'S FAMILY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. AFTER THEIR INITIAL EFFORTS PROVED
FRUITLESS, CWS REPRESENTATIVE ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE
IN EARLY SUMMER. AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR EMBASSY
OFFICERS INITIATED DISCREET INQUIRIES AT VARIOUS
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LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE SECURITY
SERVICE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THESE INQUIRIES AND
CONSULTATIONS WITH CWS REPRESENTATIVE CONTINUED UNTIL
DERENONCOURT'S RELEASE. SECURITY OFFICIALS CLEARLY
CONSIDER DERENONCOURT DANGEROUS AND HIS RELEASE AS
WELL AS THE RELEASE OF OTHER ALLEGED COMMUNISTS

IS SIGNIFICANT.

3. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH DERENONCOURT AND CANNOT JUDGE EXTENT OF HIS ALLEGED COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS OR ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, CWS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT DERENONCOURT WENT BEYOND BOUNDS OF VIGOROUS PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, IN COURSE OF WHICH HE ENCOUNTERED RESISTENCE OF CERTAIN ENTRENCHED LANDHOLDERS WHO DISLIKED HIS SPIRITED ADVOCACY OF PEASANT'S INTERESTS. MOREOVER, CWS REPS TOLD US THEY HAD WARNED DERENONCOURT THAT HE COULD BECOME TARGET FOR CHARGES OF "COMMUNIST AGITATION" AND CAUTIONED HIM ABOUT HIS HABIT OF TALKING EXPANSIVELY AND OPENLY ABOUT NEED FOR MORE RAPID PACE OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN HAITI. DERENONCOURT DISMISSED SUCH ADVICE.

4. CWS REP CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 28 TO PASS ON REPORT FROM ONE OF THE RELEASED EIGHT THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES WERE REFUSING TO PERMIT THEM TO LEAVE ORLY AND TO ASK FOR SUPPORT IN HELPING DERENONCOURT APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO U.S. AS POLITICAL ASYLEE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A REQUEST SHOULD DERENONCOURT MAKE IT. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, INCIDENTALLY, HAS RECEIVED NO WORD FROM QUAI THAT RELEASED MEN WERE BEING HELD AT ORLY AND SAW NO GROUNDS FOR REFUSING THEM ADMISSION UNDER EXISTING HAITIAN-FRENCH CONSULAR CONVENTION.
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